

Additionally, Baltimore is the home of dozens of HUB Zones or "Historically Under-utilized Business Zones."

The HUB Zone Empowerment Contracting Program was enacted into law as part of the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 1997.

The program encourages economic development in distressed communities through establishment of preferences for award of Federal contracts to small businesses located in these areas.

Such a program has immense potential to aid the residents of my district—both business owners and the employees they hire.

I would hate to think that after my colleagues demonstrated their wisdom in enacting the HUB Zone legislation, that just one year later they would provide inadequate funding to fully enact the program.

My constituents contact my office daily to learn of SBA programs that can assist them in their attempts to gain financial self-sufficiency and independence.

I urge the conference committee to fully fund both the Minority Enterprise Development and the HUB Zone Programs.

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the Republican majority meant to accomplish when it so dramatically under-funded the SBA and restricted those funds in a manner that would cause the elimination of virtually the entire SBA headquarters' staff.

I therefore urge the members of the conference committee to act with a clear head and a clear conscience when they consider restoring full funding to the SBA.

#### FOREST TAX RELIEF ACT

#### HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 6, 1998*

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce the introduction of the Forest Tax Relief Act, an important bill to let all our citizens enjoy the forests free from burdensome taxes. I am proud to announce that I have co-authored this bi-partisan bill with my dear colleague, Representative LOIS CAPPS (D-CA.)

Due to enabling legislation passed by a previous Congress, the United States Forest Service has implemented a new pilot project charging day users a per car fee to park on public lands. Dubbed the "Adventure Pass" by the U.S. Forest Service, this is nothing but a new tax on using public lands. Many of my constituents question the fairness and merits of this tax, and I share their concern. This tax goes against the concept of experiencing our free and open land making it a hardship on locals and visitors alike.

Within the forest of the 44th Congressional district, the per car fee for an Adventure Pass is \$5. To residents in the communities of Idyllwild, Anza, Hemet and San Jacinto and tourists who come to enjoy these precious lands, this fee is a source of much controversy. We have come to expect the freedom to enjoy this area without the inconvenience and tax imposed on us today.

To tax the Great Outdoors is offensive to the very concept of the national forest system. The forests are for the entire nation and therefore should be supported through the traditional funding process. Under this plan, Con-

gress taxes Americans twice. It is now time to remedy this situation.

Mr. Speaker, not only are the fees unjust, but they are generating only half the projected revenue. I believe we are deterring individuals from discovering the wonder and beauty of our National Forest. We must encourage people to visit, not discourage them from doing so. When tourists go elsewhere, it hurts small businesses and it hurts our efforts to educate individuals on the importance of protecting this precious national resource. This tax serves as a barrier to working families, hikers, nature lovers and all those desiring access to our national forests.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this effort to return the forests back to the people.

#### LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 4, 1998*

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3790.

The major beneficiary of this bill will be the National Digital Library. The "profits" from the bill will go to make millions of items available freely on the internet by the year 2000. It is a most fitting goal as the Library of Congress celebrates its 200th birthday in the year 2000. The Library will be using the world's most advanced technology for further education of all our citizens.

Already more than 500,000 items from the Library's incomparable collections relating to American history are on line, including Civil War photographs, presidential papers, documents relating to the civil rights movement, and women's suffrage. Nearly 62 million transactions are now being handled by the Library's on-line services.

These services are used by students, scholars and the general public in the U.S. and around the world. The Library's web site has been called a "publicly and privately financed funded taxpayers dream" by Wired Magazine and an "internet hit" by the New York Times.

We have more than the 290 co-sponsors required to bring this bipartisan bill to the floor. I applaud the Library and urge all my colleagues to support this worthy bill.

#### BIOMATERIALS ACCESS ASSURANCE ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 29, 1998*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to support H.R. 872, the Biomaterials Access Assurance Act. The broad consensus of support that the bill now enjoys is the result of many months of hard work by many, especially the bill's sponsor, Representative GEORGE GEKAS.

"Biomaterials" are the raw materials that are used to make medical implants and devices.

Examples of biomaterials include silicone, polyester, urethane, and polycarbonate. These materials have hundreds of non-medical uses, but their use in medical devices is one of the most important.

Despite having no role in the design, testing, or production of implantable medical products, biomaterials suppliers are exposed to millions of dollars in litigation costs from product liability suits. Courts have overwhelmingly found biomaterials suppliers not liable, but the costly litigation quickly overwhelms the relatively small financial benefits of selling to the medical device market. For this reason, many biomaterials suppliers no longer sell their products for medical use.

H.R. 872 would limit the liability of biomaterials suppliers to instances of genuine fault. It provides expedited dismissal for biomaterials suppliers, without extensive discovery or other legal costs, in product liability suits where plaintiffs allege harm from a medical implant.

Without congressional action, patients will lose access to life-enhancing and life-saving implantable medical devices and some device manufacturers will close their doors.

Passage of this legislation is critically important for the future of Millions of patients and the medical device industry. Anyone that uses a medical device should be heartened by the action of the House today. This bill is a victory for consumers and ensures that the United States' leadership in medical technology innovation will continue.

In closing, I want to emphasize how important it is that this bill remain narrow in scope. As written, it addresses a specific, well-documented public health problem. Any effort to expand the scope of the bill by our colleagues in the other body to include broader product liability reforms will seriously endanger passage this year. On behalf of the patients who depend on medical technology, we cannot afford to let that happen.

#### 24TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS

SPEECH OF

#### HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, August 3, 1998*

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to protest the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

Even though the international community has condemned the Turkish government's action as a brutal violation of international law, Turkey has yet to comply with international pressures and remains the only nation in the world to recognize the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as a sovereign entity. Since 1974, the United Nations and other international organizations have repeatedly attempted to find a solution to this dispute, but the border separating the Cypriot and Turkish forces remains one of the most militarized in the world. Currently, over 30,000 troops retain control over the northern third of the island. Tensions remain high in the region, and, with the recent Turkish threats of military action, the prospects for a peaceful solution in the near future have been further reduced.

The invasion of 1974 marked not just a defeat of Cypriot military forces, but the beginning of a policy of Turkish ethnic cleansing.